

COUNTRY Venezuela

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Oil Syndicate Matters

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Organization of labor syndicates in the Zulia area of Venezuela is continuing slowly. The apolitical union, Sindicato de Trabajadores Libres de la Industria Petrolera (STLIP) de Lagunillas, is now legalized. The Shell Group Companies report that two percent or 26 of their workers in that field are members. The STLIP de Casigua has not yet received final governmental approval, but 57 Shell employees, or nine percent of the Casigua workers, have indicated they will affiliate. The Union Republicana Democratica (URD) union in process of formation on the Paraguana Peninsula has not yet been legalized. Another URD union is reported attempting to organize at the Shell field at Mene Grande.
2. Felix Sanchez, former claims agent for the red Communist-controlled Sindicato de Trabajadores Petroleros (STP) de los Municipios Punta Cardon y Los Taques, returned to that area during the first week of October 1950. He had disappeared when the syndicate was dissolved in May 1950 and was seeking to get his job back. Shell officials informed him he had been fired for abandoning his work, and he left the area.
3. German Espina Portillo, Zulia attorney who was on the Central Committee of the Partido Comunista de Venezuela (PCV) and who was Secretary-General of the PCV regional committee for Zulia, is reported to be in Caracas. Although not under arrest, he has been told by police that he must not leave town.
4. Fernando Padilla Argeaga, member of the PCV and former attorney for COSUTRAPET, red Communist oil syndicate federation now dissolved, is reported to have told an oil company attorney that his law firm no longer handles labor matters but restricts its present practice to criminal cases. Padilla stated he was interested in finding out governmental plans for negotiations of the oil contracts replacing those which expire in February and March 1951.

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